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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,L 03,INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,
DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAL 1,SAH 03,AID 30,NSAE 00,RSR 01,/139 W

R 160855Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8938
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8628

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: AN GIAN

RF: SAIGON 6235

1. TWENTY-FIVE OF 43 CANDIDATES WHO FILES FOR AN GIANG'S 4 SW S (#) REMAIN THE RACE AS OF OCT 14. CANDIJ TES DAOAN THANH LIEM, HUYNH VAN TAM, DO KIM TUONG, LE TUONG THOAI AND TRUONG VAN KY WITHDREW FOR REASONS UNKNOWN. LEMUMAN HUE WITHDREW TO SUPPORT (MRS.) TRAN THI HUE. HOATTAO FECAIL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS NGUYEN DUY TAM, LAM THE XUONG AND LE CONG TAM WITHDREW AT REQUEST OF SDP PARTY LEADER

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PHAM BA CAM. MILITARY CANDIDATES CAPTAIN NGUYEN HONG LIEN, MAJOR

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DUONG MINCH QUANG, CAPTAIN TRUONG NGOC UYEN, LE VAN COI AND LE DUYEN NGAU WERE DENIED LEAVE. PHAM VAN HOONG AND MAJOR HUYNH NGODID NOT HAVE PROPER PAPERS. NGUEYEN TRONG NGAI WAS EXCLUDED BECASUE OF FORMER MALFEASANCE IN PUBLIC OFFICE AND LE THANH KHOI WAS EXCLUDED FOR FORMER CRIMINAL ACTITITIES.

2. ELECTION PICTURE IN AN GIAN COMPLICATED BY FACT NEITHER CENTRAL NOR PROVINCIAL HOA HAO COMMITTEE IS SPONSORING CANDIDATES AS THEY DID LAST YEAR. HOA HAO VOTE WILL THUS BE SPLIT BETWEEN 18 HOA HAO CANDIDATES RUNNING SEPARATELY, MOST OF THE AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER. BASIC BIOGRAPCHIC DATE ON ALL CANDIDATES REPORTED REFTEL.

3. LEADING HOA HAO CANDIDATES:

A. NGUYEN THANH KINH, MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE OF AN GIANG CGA HA (# COMMITTEE; EXPECTED TH (#) DO WELL BECAUSE OF HIS SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES. HE

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WAS FORMERLY AMEMBER OF THE "THREE STAR" HOA HAO FACTION. PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION. RUNS PRIVATE SCHOOL IN LONG XUYEN.

B. TRAN VAN LANH, MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF HOA HAO POVINCIAL COMMITTEE. CLOSE FRIEND OF COL HUE, LEADING HAO HAO FIGURE (SEE BELOW). PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION.

C. NGUYEN VAN HUE, FORMER HOA HAO ARMY COLONEL, CHAIRMAN OF AN GIAN GHOA HAO COMMITTEE AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. SUPPORTED THIEU AND KY IN LAST ELECTION. HUE HAS MONEY AND IS CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY, BUT HUE IS SAID TO HAVE ACCUMULATED MANY ENEMIES. HAS SUPPORT OF LT COL TRAN VAN TUOI. HUE, LANH AND KINH ARE SAID TO BE UNOFFICIAL CANDIDATES OF HOA HAO PROVINCE COMMITTEE BUT KINH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE

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COOPERATING WITH LFE.

D. DOANG VAN CUONG, LT COL ARVN, FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF OF KIEN PHONG. b-1 ed

CUONG IS SAID TO HAVE SUPPORT AMONG FOLLOERS OF HOA HAO GENERAL MGUYEN GIAC NGO IN CHO MOI DISTRICT OF AN GIANG BUT IS NOT SO WELL KNOWN ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE.

CUONG HAS HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN HOA HAO AFFAIRS.

E. NGUYEN VAN HOANG, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, CRITICIZED (AS MANY CA DEPUTIES) FOR NOT DELIVERING MATERIAL BENEFITS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS. HOANH IS CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY.

F. (MRS) TRAN THI HOA. SECOND WIFE OFHOA HAO HERO GEN BA CUT, SUPPORTED BY HIS FOLLOWERS. SHE HAS ONLY PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION AND IS SAID TO HAVE LITTLE ABILITY. HER SYMBOL IS THREE STARS. SHE IS BELIEVE TO BE SUPPORED BY HOA HAO GEN LAM THANH NGUYEN AND FORMER CENTRAL COMMITTEE FIGURE VAN PHU.

G. OTHER HOA HAO CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE ARE PRO-VINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER LE CONG TRANG AND TRAN VAN MINH.

4. HOA HAO VOTE THIS YEAR WILL BE FRAGMENTED. STRUGGLE BE-TWEEN TRAN VAN TUOI AND LUONG TRONG TUONG TO CONTROL HOA HAO CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS CAUSED GENERAL ILL WILL AND FURTHER DIVISIONS AMONG THE SECT. NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATED WARE BASING THEIR HOPES ON THIS FRAGMENTATION OF HOA HAO VOTES. HOA HAO

CANDIDATES STILL APPEAR MOST LIKELY WINNERS BECAUSE ALMOST THREE FOURTHS AN GIANG VOTERS ARE HOA HAO. AN GIANG CATHOLIC VOTE ALTHOUGH SMALL IS RELATIVELY UNITED AND IS

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TARGET OF MAIN NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATES. AN GIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY IS SAID NOT OPENLY SUPPORTING ANY CANDIDATE.

5. NON-HOA HAO WITH SOME CHANCE:

A. MA XAI, ARVN LTMN DOCTOR AT LONG XUYEN MILITARY HOSPITAL XAI'S WIFE IS A CATHOLIC AND HE IS HOPING FOR CATHOLIC VOTES. HOA HAO CALL HIM A CATHOLIC BUT XAI CALIMS TO BE A HOA HAO. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE SUPPOR[illegible] BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY LE PHUOC SANG AND BY CHAIRMAN OF CHAU THANH DISTRICT HOA HAO COMMITTEE. XAI IS ONLY CANDIDATE WITH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. OLDER HOA HAO CANDIDATES SNEER AT XAI AS "YOUNG PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL."

B. HOANG NGOC THANH, CATHOLIC, FROM SAIGON; CANIDATE OF FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIER GROUP LET BY GEN TRAN VAN DON. NORTHERN REFUGEE. CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ASSISTANT MINISTER OF INFORMATION UNDER DIEM REGIME. PART-TIME WRITER FOR SAIGON

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NEWSPAPER "CHINH LUAN". HOPING ON HOA HAO SPLIT AND LABOR, CIVIL SERVANT AND CATHOLIC VOTE. OPENLY CRITICIZES HOA HAO CANIDDATES FOR LACK OF EDUCATION. THANH HAS HIGH SCHOOL EDUCCATION.

C. VO VAN TOT, REMAINING CATHOLIC CANDIDATE. HE IS AN ELDERLY RETIRED PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

D. LE HON XUONG, WIFE OF KIEN GIAN PROVINCE CHIEF LT COL DTRAN CHI THAM, WHO WAS FORMERLY THOT NOT DISTRICT CHIEF AND AN GIAN DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR SECURITY. MRS. XUONG IS BUDDHIST BUT COUNTING C CATHOLIC VOTE BECAUSE OF PAST TIES WITH LOCAL CATHOLICS.

6. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WAS NOT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OFFICIALLY IN AN GIAN UNTIL OCT 12, AND NOT MUCH INTEREST HAD BEEN GENERATED IN THE CONTEST BY OCTOER 15. LOCAL OFFICIALSE POINTOUT THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE VOTER INTEREST MAY BE, TURNOUT MAY WELL BE BELOW THAT IN PAST ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF THE HIGH WATER

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WHICH PREVAILS IN THE WESTERN DELTA AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. THERE IS NO FLOOD IN PROSPECT BUT WATER IS NOW UP TO ROAD LEVEL IN A NUMBER OF PLACES: TRAVUY IS ALWAYS SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED DUING THIS PERIOD, WHICH WILL PROBABLY LIMIT VOTER TURNOUT PK CHAU DOC, AN GIANG AND KIEN PHONG AS WELL AS IN SOME ADJACENT AREAS.
BUNKER

NOTE: (#) AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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